

Additional Information

Tips For Observing and Photographing Dragonflies

Dragonflies can be loosely lumped into categories of “perchers” or “flyers”. Perchers, such as some of the skimmers, have a usual or favorite perch which they return to repeatedly. Some flyers have a usual route, a beat which they fly back and forth in the same area. You can pre-focus your camera or binoculars on that area to get a close look. Some have a large, long beat and are more difficult to predict, so some luck and persistence are required to find them perched. Most odonates are most active in middle of the day, but some are more active early and late, roosting most of the day in the shade. Be prepared, research and study your subjects first to know the preferred habitats. Binoculars, especially close-focus binoculars are a great aid for observing all nature subjects.

Approach slowly, getting closer and snapping away as you go (with today’s digital cameras, you can always delete later), a good distant shot is better than none and will be some aid in identifying later.

Try to align planes of focus; for example, a side view is usually good, so move to the side for a clear side view of the dragonfly. A “3/4 view” can show face and eyes as well as the side. Some field marks are more important than others in differentiating one species from another. Get more than one angle if possible.

Sun at your back is always good for photographic detail but be ready to use flash to “fill” in the detail on the shadow side if the subject is back-lit or in any dark situation.

About ATBI

This brochure was compiled and developed by the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) group. ATBI is an on-going project in Tennessee State Parks and State Natural Areas. The goal of ATBI is to document all species in Tennessee State Parks, monitor long-term trends in specific taxonomic groups, and promote education about and preservation of all biodiversity with increased science and citizen education efforts. To access the ATBI database, go to www.tn.gov/environment/parks/atbi.

For more information about ATBI, please contact David Hill, 7th Floor, L & C Tower, 401 Church St., Nashville, TN 37243. Email david.r.hill@tn.gov. Phone 615-253-2455.

Notes

Dragonfly References

Beaton, Giff. 2007. Dragonflies and Damselflies of Georgia and the Southeast. A Wormsloe Foundation Nature Book.

Dunkle, Sidney. 2000. Dragonflies through Binoculars: A Field Guide to Dragonflies of North America. Oxford University Press.

Nikula, Blair et al. 2002. Stokes Beginner’s Guide to Dragonflies. Little, Brown & Company.

<http://www.odonatacentral.org/>. Dragonfly Society of the Americas. This site has checklists of dragonflies by county.

Collecting of plants or animals in state parks and natural areas is prohibited. Please help preserve Tennessee’s natural heritage by leaving plants and animals for others to enjoy.

WARRIORS PATH STATE PARK

490 Hemlock Road

Kingsport, TN 37663

Phone: (423) 239-8531

www.tn.gov/environment/parks/WarriorsPath/

TENNESSEE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI)



Dragonflies and Damselflies of Warriors Path State Park and Sullivan County



Photo © Marty Silver

Welcome to the wonderful world of dragonflies at beautiful Warriors Path State Park! Of the approximate 154 species of odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) in Tennessee, 71 have been documented in this park or in Sullivan County.

Pictured above is a male Cherokee Clubtail (*Gomphus consanguis*) which is unique to the Southern Appalachian Region. It can be found in the park during the late spring and early summer.

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Dragonfly and Damselfly Checklist of Warriors Path State Park and Sullivan County

Damselflies (Zygoptera)

Broad-winged Damselflies (Calopterygidae)

- ☐ Sparkling Jewelwing
- ☐ Ebony Jewelwing
- ☐ American Rubyspot

Spreadwings (Iestidae)

- ☐ Great Spreadwing
- ☐ Southern Spreadwing
- ☐ Amber-winged Spreadwing
- ☐ Slender Spreadwing
- ☐ Swamp Spreadwing

Pond Damselflies (Coenagrionidae)

- ☐ Eastern Red Damsel
- ☐ Blue-fronted Dancer
- ☐ Variable Dancer
- ☐ Powdered Dancer
- ☐ Blue-ringed Dancer
- ☐ Blue-tipped Dancer
- ☐ Dusky Dancer
- ☐ Aurora Damsel
- ☐ Azure Bluet
- ☐ Double-striped Bluet
- ☐ Familiar Bluet
- ☐ Turquoise Bluet
- ☐ Stream Bluet
- ☐ Orange Bluet
- ☐ Slender Bluet
- ☐ Citrine Forktail
- ☐ Fragile Forktail
- ☐ Eastern Forktail

Dragonflies (Anisoptera)

Dragonflies Petaltails (Petaluridae)

- ☐ Gray Petaltail

Darners (Aeshnidae)

- ☐ Shadow Darner
- ☐ Common Green Darner
- ☐ Comet Darner
- ☐ Springtime Darner
- ☐ Fawn Darner

Clubtails (Gomphidae)

- ☐ Black-shouldered Spinyleg
- ☐ Cherokee Clubtail
- ☐ Lancet Clubtail
- ☐ Ashy Clubtail
- ☐ Skillet Clubtail
- ☐ Green-faced Clubtail
- ☐ Dragonhunter
- ☐ Common Sanddragon
- ☐ Eastern Least Clubtail

Spiketails (Cordulegastridae)

- ☐ Tiger Spiketail
- ☐ Twin-spotted Spiketail

Cruisers (Macromiidae)

- ☐ Stream Cruiser
- ☐ Allegheny River Cruiser
- ☐ Illinois (Swift) River Cruiser
- ☐ Royal River Cruiser

Emeralds (Corduliidae)

- ☐ Common Baskettail
- ☐ Prince Baskettail
- ☐ Uhler's Sundragon
- ☐ Mocha Emerald

Skimmers (Libellulidae)

- ☐ Calico Pennant
- ☐ Banded Pennant
- ☐ Double-ringed Pennant
- ☐ Swift Setwing
- ☐ Common (Eastern) Pondhawk
- ☐ Blue Corporal
- ☐ Spangled Skimmer
- ☐ Yellow-sided Skimmer
- ☐ Slaty Skimmer
- ☐ Widow Skimmer
- ☐ Twelve-spotted Skimmer
- ☐ Blue Dasher
- ☐ Wandering Glider
- ☐ Spot-winged Glider
- ☐ Eastern Amberwing
- ☐ Common Whitetail
- ☐ Ruby Meadowhawk
- ☐ Autumn Meadowhawk
- ☐ Carolina Saddlebags
- ☐ Black Saddlebags

Habitat

Warriors Path State Park is in the Ridge and Valley region of upper East Tennessee. Located on Fort Patrick Henry Lake, the park includes lake, lake shoreline, woodland streams, ponds and upland field habitats.

Good spots

*Stream, stream-side and emergent vegetation

*Lake, lake-side and emergent vegetation

*Trails, sunny spots and seeps

*Edges of marshes and boggy areas

*Open areas and meadows